

The greatest honors of my life have been raising three fine women and representing the great people of Western New York. Throughout my career, however, there has never been any question that my family comes first. And, by the same token, I would not be able to serve Western New Yorkers without the support and inspiration of my loving husband, three beautiful daughters, and seven wonderful grandchildren.

My experience as a mother and grandmother has heavily influenced my career. For what could be better training for public service than motherhood? Mothers maintain the household finances, feed and clothe their children, and learn quickly how to keep the peace.

As a mother who has spent nights worrying about a sick child, how could I not be a staunch advocate of children's health insurance? As a grandmother, how could I not lead in the fight to combat global warming so that my grandchildren grow up on a cleaner and greener planet? Like any mother, I value education and have worked to improve our school systems and make college more accessible and affordable.

Moreover, my devotion to our country shaped how I raised my children. From an early age, I brought my daughters into the voting booth and I introduced them to people from many different walks of life. As adults, they care deeply about the world around them and are teaching their children the same values.

My daughters and my service to the public are my contributions to our country. And, I could not do my job in Congress well if I were not also a mother.